

# Marriage

Eph 5:31

For this cause a man shall leave his father and mother, and shall cleave to his wife; and the two shall become one flesh. NAS

## Marriage Fundamentals

**Marriage is a Covenant** - Mal 2:14 - 14 You ask, "Why?" It is because the LORD is acting as the witness between you and the wife of your youth, because you have broken faith with her, though **she is your partner**, the wife of your **marriage covenant**. NIV

COVENANT - A compact or agreement between two parties binding them mutually to undertakings on each other's behalf. (*Evangelical Dictionary of Theology*)

Marriage therefore is an agreement by which we are ***bound*** to each other, for each other's ***benefit***. The husband is ***bound*** to his wife for ***her benefit***, and the wife to her husband for ***his benefit***. What a beautiful picture of mutual sharing.

**Marriage is like a Triangle** - Eph 5:31-32 - 31 For this cause a man shall leave his father and mother, and shall **cleave to his wife**; and the two shall become one flesh. 32 This mystery is great; but I am speaking with **reference to Christ and the church**. NAS

Marriage partners are furthermore bound in "holy matrimony." This agreement binds us not only to each other, but also before God. We have taken this "***vow***" in His name and invoked ***His name to make our commitment binding***. Marriage without the One who created it is incomplete and unfulfilled. God completes the marriage union, granting loving unity by His Spirit, holding it in "***oneness***", the example for which He created it.

Marriage can only be *what God has designed* it to be, when its partners are bound together in the purpose for which God created marriage. This is to be a portrait of the Christ/Church relationship. An image of the benevolent sharing together in "oneness" of, Jesus Christ and His bride, the church.

**Marriage is for God's Glory** – 1 Cor 11:7-8 - 7 For a man ought not to have his head covered, since **he is the image and glory of God**; but the **woman is the glory of man**. NAS

As it is with everything God has created, marriage was created to display the Glory of God. When the partners in marriage fulfill their God-given roles, God's Glory is displayed in them. So it is with any matter of free moral choice, we either chose to obey or disobey the command of God and so we are visited either with the blessings or the discipline of God. In the beginning God created Adam and he was alone.

**Gen 2:18** - 18 Then the LORD God said, "It is **not good for the man to be alone**; I will make him a helper suitable for him." NAS

Then God created the woman out of Adam's side and Adam named her woman.

**Gen 2:23** - "This is now bone of my bones, And flesh of my flesh; She shall be called Woman, Because she was taken out of Man." NAS

The woman was created because it was not good for man to be alone. God provided a companion who was suitable to meet his intimate needs; one with whom he could share his life. This was the creation of marriage, the first institution among man, which God created. Man was now "made complete" by the woman. She was given *equality with man*. Coming from man, one whom he would *neither worship* like God, *nor rule over* as with the animals. Thus the woman completes man, forming a oneness that is shared by two.

**Gen 2:24-25** - 24 For this cause a man shall leave his father and his mother, and shall **cleave to his wife; and they shall become one flesh**. 25 And the man and his wife were both naked and were not ashamed. NAS

Marriage then is a holy reality of two becoming one. Just think how perfectly woman completes man. All of man's *masculine attributes are brought to harmony by the beauty femininity*. Man and woman can share life together, each possessing qualities that benefit the other. This "oneness" is the glory and the splendor of God's created works. It is not only a physical union, which is marvelous in itself, but it displays God's Glory at every level, spiritually, emotionally and socially. What awe we see in God when we ponder this union we call marriage!

In what ways does marriage benefit us physically?

---

Emotionally?

---

Spiritually?

---

Socially?

---

Name some masculine qualities?

---

Name some feminine qualities?

---

## Keys to a Fulfilling Marriage

### 1. Always possess the benevolent, self-sacrificing attitude of Christ toward your spouse.

**Eph 5:21 - 21** Submit to one another out of reverence for Christ. NIV

- Deny yourself. Selfishness is the enemy of marriage.
- Submit to one another out of reverence for Christ
- Prefer one another above yourself

### 2. Concentrate on treasuring your spouse.

**Eph 5:29 - 29** for no one ever hated his own flesh, but nourishes and cherishes it, just as Christ also does the church, NAS

- Thank God continually for your spouse
- Focus on their positive traits
- Ask God for a special devotion to your spouse

### 3. Serve one another in love.

**Gal 5:13 - 13** You, my brothers, were called to be free. But do not use your freedom to indulge the sinful nature; rather, serve one another in love. NIV

- Action - Do the work of service
- Sacrifice your own comfort and pleasure for your spouse's benefit

### 4. Voice your approval, acceptance, and praise of your spouse often.

**Prov 31:28-29 - 28** Her children arise and call her blessed; her husband also, and he praises her: **29** "Many women do noble things, but you surpass them all." NIV

- Mean what you say or don't say it
- Be creative

### 5. Invest in your marriage

**Rom 12:10 - 10** Be devoted to one another in brotherly love. Honor one another above yourselves. NIV

- It is the most important relationship in your life
- Time is worth more than "things"

### 6. Learn to enjoy your spouse.

**Prov 5:18-19 - 8** Let your fountain be blessed, And rejoice in the wife of your youth, **19** As a loving hind and a graceful doe, Let her breasts satisfy you at all times; Be exhilarated always with her love. NAS

- Be grateful to God and Adore your spouse, he/she is a gift from Him
- Be enjoyable - (Is your love exhilarating?)

### 7. Allow Christ's love and grace to transform you.

**1 Cor 13:4-8 - 4** Love is patient, love is kind, and is not jealous; love does not brag and is not arrogant, **5** does not act unbecomingly; it does not seek its own, is not provoked, does not take into account a wrong suffered, **6** does not rejoice in unrighteousness, but rejoices with the truth; **7** bears all things, believes all things, hopes all things, endures all things. **8** Love never fails; NAS

- Is this the kind of love that you have to your spouse?

## *Marriage*

Eph 5:-31

For this cause a man shall leave his father and mother, and shall cleave to his wife; and the two shall become one flesh. NAS

**Ephesians 5:21** - 21 and be subject to one another in the fear of Christ.

A. be subject to one another – Submission is a primary characteristic of a Christian. We are to submit continually to God, with reverence do we obey His will. We are to submit to those older than us(1 Pet 5:5), submit to the governing authorities(1 Pet 2:13,Rom 13:1-5), submit to the leaders of the church(Heb 13:17), to our parents and masters(Eph 6:1-6), and here to **“one another.”**

**be subject** – to subordinate, to line up under, - **gk.** hupotasso, 5293; to subordinate; reflexively, to obey:--be under obedience (obedient), put under, subdue unto, (be, make) subject (to, unto), be (put) in subjection (to, under), submit self unto.

This is a fundamental element in ALL Christian relationships and it is the basis for the whole passage from Eph 5:22- Eph 6:9.

**James 3:17** - 17 But the wisdom from above is first pure, **then peaceable, gentle, reasonable,** full of mercy and good fruits, unwavering, without hypocrisy. NASB

This attitude of submission **“to one another”** provides an atmosphere of peace every time. Each person should find that proper authority which God has ordained and line up underneath it or submit to it. If we submit to one another, we allow for each other’s shortcomings and do not demand our own rights, granting honor to one another for Jesus sake. This is dying to self. This is a major KEY to the marriage relationship.

**Luke 9:23** - 23 And He was saying to them all, "If anyone wishes to come after Me, **let him deny himself, and take up his cross daily, and follow Me.** NAS

B. in the fear of Christ – The motivation for our submission to one another is reverence or **“fear of Christ.”** When we submit for this purpose, we hit the mark every time. If we expect some human response, we are likely to be disappointed. But if we submit to reverence and obey Christ, we succeed every time.

**Example:** *If a wife is submissive to her husband so that he will be the loving leader, provider and protector he should be, she will be sadly disappointed in his human failure. This is an **improper motivation** for submission.*

**Ephesians 5:22-24** - 22 Wives, be subject to your own husbands, as to the Lord. 23 For the husband is the head of the wife, as Christ also is the head of the church, He Himself being the Savior of the body. 24 But as the church is subject to Christ, so also the wives ought to be to their husbands in everything. NASB

A. Wives, be subject to your own husbands - Here is the wives’ duty. To **“be subject”** to your own husbands. The wife is to recognize and be subject to the God given authority of the husband, for God has appointed him as **“head of the wife.”**

**1 Peter 3:1-3** - 3:1 In the same way, **you wives, be submissive to your own husbands** so that even if any of them are disobedient to the word, they may be won without a word by the behavior of their wives, 2 as they observe your chaste and respectful behavior. NASB

**Titus 2:4-5** - that they may encourage the young women to love their husbands, to love their children, 5 to be sensible, pure, workers at home, kind, **being subject to their own husbands,** that the word of God may not be dishonored. NASB

**Colossians 3:18-19** - 18 **Wives, be subject to your husbands,** as is fitting in the Lord. NASB

These terms describe the “role” of the husband and wife, not some God given right to “lord over” or “rule over” for the husband’s own selfish benefit. But in the loving attitude of Christ, he fulfills his God appointed role, to protect and to guide, to provide and nurture his wife and family. And for this the husband will give an account to God.

B. as to the Lord – The wife is to submit to the husband as she would to God himself. Anytime we subject ourselves to authority, it is for the sake of obedience to God. This submission is to take place regardless of the husband's personal worthiness or spiritual condition. A wife who doesn't respond properly to her husband's direction manifests a serious spiritual dysfunction, it is surely sin against the Lord. Would the church treat Christ with contempt? On the other hand, a wife who responds willingly and lovingly, honors God, her husband, her family, her church, and herself. Submission is the beauty of a godly woman!

**1 Peter 3:4-6** - 4 but let it be the hidden person of the heart, with the imperishable **quality of a gentle and quiet spirit, which is precious in the sight of God.** 5 For in this way in former times the holy women also, who hoped in God, used to adorn themselves, **being submissive to their own husbands.** 6 Thus Sarah obeyed Abraham, calling him lord, and you have become her children if you do what is right without being frightened by any fear. NASB

C. For the husband is the head of the wife, as Christ also is the head of the church, He Himself being the Savior of the body. – The husband is the head of the wife in the same manner as Christ is the head of the church. The sense is, she is subordinate to him; and in all circumstances - in her attitude, her dress, her conversation, in public and in the family circle--should recognize her subordination to him.

**1 Corinthians 11:3** - 3 But I want you to understand that Christ is the head of every man, and the **man is the head of a woman,** and God is the head of Christ. NASB

D. wives should submit to their husbands in everything. – This statement makes it very clear the *extent* to which the wives' submission should be. However, the wife should not submit in the case of a husband who would lead his wife into sin, neither should she submit to a physically abusive husband. The goal of submission is to please and obey Christ. Wives who are unwilling to lovingly submit to their husbands are robbing themselves of fulfillment in marriage. The very thing they desire to have, they are in reality rejecting. Not only this, but more importantly a non-submissive wife is disobedient and rebellious to God who commands the wife to respect her husband and submit to him **"in everything"** and **"as to the lord."** This rebel behavior is truly a blight to femininity, and it dishonors God's Word.

**Titus 2:4-5** - that they may encourage the young women to love their husbands, to love their children, 5 to be sensible, pure, workers at home, kind, **being subject to their own husbands, that the word of God may not be dishonored.** NASB

**Ephesians 5:25-27** - 25 Husbands, love your wives, just as Christ also loved the church and gave Himself up for her;

A. Husbands, love your wives, just as Christ also loved the church and gave Himself up for her - Here is the husband's duty. In submitting to God, he is to love his wife with the same self-sacrificing love that Christ gave for the church. In this love the wife would never be violated but rather always encouraged, supported, nurtured and protected. The husband should at all cost, give of himself in order to meet his wife's needs (whatever they are), even if it means his life! What an example of selfless love that we have in Christ! Truly husbands have a noble and lofty goal. How should a husband love his wife? – **"Just as Christ loved the church,"** consider the love of Christ.....

### **Christ's Love Is:**

**Sacrificial** – Christ was willing to give everything He had for the well being of His bride the church. He gave "Himself." Even His very life He did not withhold from her. Here is an example of the **DEGREE** to which a husband should love and care for his wife.

Husband's should be willing to die for the protection and support of their wives. ***Are you a sacrificial husband?***

**Gracious** – Christ loves and gives regardless of merit. In fact, Christ gives to those who do not deserve it. Jesus gave His life in the midst of our rebellion. Oh that we would love so freely as our precious Christ! Husbands are to grant their wives honor, she is your partner, bone of your bone, the love of your life! Give all that you have for her joy, has not Jesus done this for you? ***Are you're a gracious husband?***

**Romans 5:8** - 8 But God demonstrates His own love toward us, in that **while we were yet sinners**, Christ died for us. NAS

**Patient** - Husbands should be patient with their wives, allowing them time for Christ to be formed in them. Oh that we were as patient as Christ! His patience is endless for the objects of His love. His love is truly unfailing. When a husband is impatient with his wife, his love fails. Husbands must be patient with their wives, remembering the patience of Christ with them. ***Are you a patient husband?***

**1 Corinthians 13:7-8** - 7 **bears all things**, believes all things, hopes all things, **endures all things. 8 Love never fails;** NAS

**Kind** – Jesus is kind to the church with a benevolent disposition which always seeks the comfort and blessing and joy of His church. He seeks her highest good, and her joy – no matter the cost. Husbands should speak kindly to their wives. Husband should practice kindness. This is the example of Christ. ***Are you a kind husband?***

**Romans 8:28** - 28 And we know that God causes all things to **work together for good to those** who love God, to those who are called according to His purpose. NAS

**Meek & Gentle** – Christ's love is gentle. Although He is "God very God" and has the command of angels, He stoops to wash the feet of those He loves. He speaks gently and possesses meekness toward all. Husbands must be gentle with their wives. They are precious gifts from God, made of "sugar and spice and everything nice." They ain't your huntin buddies! A godly husband treats his wife tenderly. ***Are you a gentle husband?***

**Matthew 11:29-30** - 29 "Take My yoke upon you, and learn from Me, for **I am gentle and humble in heart; and you shall find rest for your souls.** 30 "For My yoke is easy, and My load is light." NASB

**Sincere** – Christ has a sincere and genuine love for His bride. He loves in deed and in truth (1 John 3:18), not with a mask on the outside and grumblings in His heart. If a husband has an insincere love, although he will try to cover up his wicked heart and play the part, on the outside it will be quite obvious that his love is hypocritical for he will have true lack of affection, and devotion to his wife's joy. This will be destructive to the marriage indeed! Husbands must have a sincere and non-hypocritical love for their wives.

**Romans 12:9-10** - 9 **Let love be without hypocrisy.** Abhor what is evil; cling to what is good. 10 Be devoted to one another in brotherly love; give preference to one another in honor; NASB

**Selfless & Serving** – Christ's love does not seek its own, but rather the benefit of its object. Jesus did the "work of love." He demonstrated His love in the washing of His disciples feet. He was willing to humble Himself and serve the ones He loved. He offered His back to be torn, He offered His hands to the nails. This was none to His own benefit, except the joy that it brought His beloved. ***Are you a selfless and serving husband?***

**Love is a choice** - Love is primarily an act of the will. Here it is a verb, "***Husbands, love your wives***" and it requires ACTION. Although it produces deep and profound emotions and affection, love is a commitment rather than a feeling, otherwise it could not be commanded. Here husbands are commanded to love their wives. God is not demanding an emotion from us but rather an ACTION motivated by the will.

**Colossians 3:19** - 19 **Husbands, love your wives**, and do not be embittered against them. NASB Husbands should **“not be embittered against their wives,”** this is very destructive. Consider the attitude of Christ toward His church. Although she falls short of His favor in her practice, in position before Him she is **“holy and blameless”** and **“in all of her glory.”** A husband's contempt towards his wife tears her down, it does not edify her or grant her the healing she needs. Instead he should **“nourish and cherish her.”**

**Ephesians 5:28-30** - 28 So **husbands ought also to love their own wives** as their own bodies. He who loves his own wife loves himself; 29 for no one ever hated his own flesh, **but nourishes and cherishes it**, just as Christ also does the church, 30 because we are members of His body. NASB

**Ephesians 5:26-27** - 26 that He might sanctify her, having cleansed her by the washing of water with the word, 27 that He might present to Himself the church in all her glory, having no spot or wrinkle or any such thing; but that she should be holy and blameless. NASB

A. that He might sanctify her - Why is it that Christ loves the church? He will stop at nothing to make us holy, even give His own flesh for crucifixion, if it will purify us. And all of this **“that He might present to Himself the church in all her glory, having no spot or wrinkle or any such thing; but that she should be holy and blameless.”** Now a husband is to seek this holiness in His wife at all costs, and why? Because it is the example that was given of Christ, more than that, that she might be **“in all her glory,”** for she is a fellow heir of the grace of life. Any godly man has a great desire for his wife to be holy and pure. He seeks the holiness of his wife and marriage, even as he seeks the holiness of himself. It is his highest goal in glorifying God because they are one flesh. **Purifying** – Christ's love is a righteous love. It always seeks the holiness of its objects, for holiness is the very essence of His character and His great desire for His beloved. Husbands should have a holy zeal to purify their wives and families. This, for the husband, is a relentless pursuit. **Are you a purifying husband?**

**Galatians 4:19** - 19 My children, with **whom I am again in labor until Christ is formed in you.**

**Protecting** – Jesus has given us the greatest protection of all, the hope of eternal life. He has secured for us an eternal salvation, indeed we are in for an eternity of blessing and fulfillment. Wives should feel secure in the love of their husbands. Husbands, it is your responsibility to be sure your wife has a sanctuary in your love. She must know that she is loved unconditionally and accepted by you at all times. You must communicate your love and affection to your wife! **Are you a protecting husband?**

**Matt 11:28-30** - 28 "Come to Me, all who are weary and heavy-laden, and **I will give you rest.** 29 "Take My yoke upon you, and learn from Me, for **I am gentle and humble in heart**; and you shall find **rest for your souls.** 30 "For **My yoke is easy, and My load is light.**"

B. having cleansed her by the washing of water with the word - So how does a husband purify his wife?

- He being the head and spiritual leader in his home, continually holds the Word out before her. Purifying his own life, in order to lead her by example, he *keeps bringing the Word before her* that she might be transformed by the renewing of her mind.
- Prayer and scripture reading should be a regular practice in the home, *at the husbands lead*. The husband is to set standards and give wisdom and guidance according to God's will for his family.
- He is Prophet, Priest, and King in his home. Christ fills these three offices to the church. The *Prophet* sees, hears, and speaks the Word of God, the *Priest* mediates between God and family, the *King* rules the home through servant leadership and lovingkindness. Not in the sinful human character, but in the gracious character of Christ.

Romans 12:2 - 2 And **do not be conformed to this world**, but be **transformed by the renewing of your mind**, that you may prove what the will of God is, **that which is good and acceptable and perfect**. NAS

C. 27 that He might present to Himself the church in all her glory, having no spot or wrinkle or any such thing; but that she should be holy and blameless. - Christ sanctifies His bride in order to "*present her to Himself*." This looks forward to that day when the church will be united to Christ forever in heaven. There she will be presented to Him "*in all her glory*," "*having no spot or wrinkle or any such thing*." At that time, the church will be "*holy and blameless*" in practice, even as she is now in position. Even so, husbands ought to have this same motivation, that she should be "holy and blameless," without "any spot or blemish or any such thing!" Husbands should seek to sanctify their wives from all forms of impurity, even as they do themselves.

2 Corinthians 7:1 - 7:1 Therefore, having these promises, beloved, **let us cleanse ourselves from all defilement of flesh and spirit, perfecting holiness in the fear of God**. NASB

Jude 24 - 24 Now to Him who is able to keep you from stumbling, **and to make you stand in the presence of His glory blameless** with great joy, NASB

**Ephesians 5:28-30** - 28 So husbands ought also to love their own wives as their own bodies. He who loves his own wife loves himself; 29 for no one ever hated his own flesh, but nourishes and cherishes it, just as Christ also does the church, 30 because we are members of His body. NASB

A. 28 So husbands ought also to love their own wives as their own bodies. He who loves his own wife loves himself; - Again Paul speaks of the **DEGREE** to which a husband should love his wife, "*even as he loves himself*," or to the degree that he loves himself. Even as a man cares for the needs and desires of his own body, so should he care for the needs and desires of his wife. This also will bring the benefit to the marriage it does to life, when you love yourself your needs are met and the body is fulfilled. So also in marriage, when you love your wife and care for her needs, there is a fulfillment in marriage. Consider what a shameful matter it is for a married woman to be unloved by her husband.

Proverbs 30:21-23 - 21 **Under three things the earth quakes, And under four, it cannot bear up:** 22 Under a slave when he becomes king, And a fool when he is satisfied with food, 23 **Under**



**an unloved woman when she gets a husband**, And a maidservant when she supplants her mistress. NASB

B. 29 for no one ever hated his own flesh, but nourishes and cherishes it, just as Christ also does the church, 30 because we are members of His body – Here Paul seeks to enforce the husbands responsibility to love his wife by saying “***just as Christ also does the church.***” Here he describes Christ’s love as “***nourishing and cherishing.***”

**Nurturing** – Christ nurtures us each and every day. Why, He gives us life and breathe and all things! He richly provides for us His abundance of Joy and Peace, his mercy and His love endure forever! Husbands should nurture their wives. We are their provider and should seek to meet all of their needs, spiritual, emotional, social and physical. ***Are you a nurturing husband?***

How does Christ nourish His church?

---

---

---

**Cherishing** – Christ treasures His church. He loves her and cares for her. He continually seeks her joy and blessing. This is the great focus and entire purpose of His life and ministry. In fulfilling the Father’s plan, he labored and strived to redeem the church, giving His own life in sacrifice to show His love and “win her to Himself” by His great devotion to her. Husbands cannot show their wives genuine lovingkindness unless they genuinely cherish them in the hearts. Otherwise it is only duty and not motivated by true affection and desire. Husbands should mimic Christ’s devotion to His bride. ***Do you cherish your wife?***

How do we know that Christ treasures His church?

---

---

---

Can a husband cherish his wife if he does not genuinely value her in his heart? \_\_\_\_\_  
Why/Why not?

---

---

---

**Affectionate** – If a husband genuinely cherishes his wife, he will manifest it by godly affection. This meets a deep and profound need in the life of a wife, she ***needs*** affection. A husband must tenderly give visible manifestations of his affection to his wife, and not for the motive of sexual gratification but out of genuine affection in his heart. This would include actions and words. ***Are you an affectionate husband?***

In what ways do we see Christ’s affection for His church?

---

---

**Rewarding** – We often focus on bad things rather than good and noble. Christ overlooks our failures and *commends us for our righteousness*. We often take our wives for granted. Christ appreciates and *rewards our love to Him*. When you’ve worked hard, do you reward yourself? Of course, if nothing else you rest when you’re tired. How then can you disregard rewarding your wife if you are to love her as your own self? ***Are you a rewarding husband?***

Does Christ reward His church? \_\_\_\_\_ How? \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

C. **Meeting a woman’s emotional needs** – Husbands have a divine calling to meet the needs of their wives, just like they care for their own. You wouldn’t deprive yourself of food or clothing. Nor would you ignore your own spiritual and emotional needs, would you? We are therefore to meet these same needs for our wives. You wouldn’t starve yourself, so why then would you starve your wife of affection?

- The an important thing to many wives is a *daily time of intimate communication* with their husbands.
- Woman have a need to feel appreciated and accepted as do men. A husband must *verbalize his appreciation and acceptance* of his wife.
- Husbands need to praise their wives and *speak affectionately* to them! They must know that we adore them! Remember how you would speak to her when you were courting....
- A husband’s love should not be controlling and binding, but generally speaking it should be *freeing, encouraging and uplifting*.
- The most beneficial thing a father can do for his children is to love his wife.

### **What are some of a woman’s emotional needs?**

1. Quality *time together* with husband, doing whatever, the time is what is important.
2. A husband who is spiritually whole, who meets her spiritual needs. One who models Christ in his behavior and *leads her and her family to Christ continually*.
3. A husband who is sincere in his love to her and *expresses genuine love* from his heart.
4. When overloaded or stressed, a woman needs “*space*” or a brief time away to unwind, or at times “*help*” with her responsibilities or even a “*break*.” The stresses and work of motherhood and wifery are constantly there to weigh her down.
5. A husband that will *comfort her frequently*, rather than lecture or criticize. She needs your shoulder not your mouth in times of failure or crisis.
6. She needs your *understanding, kind-hearted attention and listening ear*.
7. Constant *criticism is destructive*. At times criticisms may be necessary, but they should be done gently and tenderly and motivated by prayerful godly love.
8. *Verbally express your love to her* and her kids. Saying “I love you” when you leave to the family gives them security. Don’t just think they know you love them, tell them. Consider what evil may be in your heart that would keep you from verbalizing your love to your wife? Pride is often a huge stumbling block here.

**Ephesians 5:31** - 31 For this cause a man shall leave his father and mother, and shall cleave to his wife; and the two shall become one flesh.

A. 31 For this cause a man shall leave his father and mother, and shall cleave to his wife; and the two shall become one flesh. – *Quote from Gen 2:24...* The marriage is to be **unbreakable union** between husband and wife. Death alone is the cause for separation. (Mark 10:9) Husband and wife are to be united as one not only socially but also physically, mentally and spiritually. They are united in the purpose to love and serve one another, to be the one who completes the other. Man and woman are incomplete without the other.

**1 Corinthians 11:8-9** - 8 For **man does not originate from woman, but woman from man**; 9 for indeed man was not created for the woman's sake, but woman for the man's sake. NASB (Adam Clarke) – “for Adam, knowing how the woman was formed, said, **This is flesh of my flesh, and bone of my bone.** God could have formed the woman out of the dust of the earth, as he had formed the man; but had he done so, she must have appeared in his eyes as a distinct being, to whom he had no natural relation. But as God formed her out of a part of the man himself, he saw she was of the same nature, the same identical flesh and blood, and of the same constitution in all respects, and consequently having equal powers, faculties, and rights. This at once ensured his affection, and excited his esteem.”

The importance of this truth cannot be overstated. Man and woman become one family unit, distinct from the one they were raised in. “**For this cause a man shall leave his father and mother, and shall cleave to his wife.**” Two very important matters here:

1. That the husband and the wife **make that proper separation from the parents** and family they were raised in. Many a peril enters a marriage from its in-laws.
2. That **every parent should allow for that separation** when they marry off a child.

It is a shameful thing for the in-law parents to seek control and improper influence in their offspring's marriage.

This union is furthermore a symbol of something much greater, the union of Christ with His bride, the church. To this the apostle looks and causes us to ponder in the following verse.

**Ephesians 5:32** - 32 This mystery is great; but I am speaking with reference to Christ and the church.

A. This mystery is great – What is the “*mystery*” here? Not our human relationship, we are accustomed to that. But the true reality to which it points, the relationship of Christ with His bride the church. This is indeed “*mysterious*” and “*great*.” Paul makes it clear that the whole matter of the marriage union is a great mystery, in how it typifies the Christ church relationship.

B. but I am speaking with reference to Christ and the church - Marriage as a **TYPE**(a typical prophecy) of Christ's relation to His people – There are many resemblances of marriage to the union of Christ, the Living God, and His “bride” the church.

- The first **Adam, the father of the whole human race**, is an image of Christ the last Adam, the father of the church universal, and the company of the redeemed and living body, the church, throughout the ages to come.(Rom 5:14, 1 Cor 15:45)
- Eve, the “**mother of all the living**,” is a type of the Church, “the mother of all the Living,” that elect company of people who shall live forevermore.
- The **deep sleep** at the formation of Eve, was a type of Christ's death.
- The **taking of the rib from Adam's side** was a type of the broken body of Christ, which produced Eve(the Church), and she originated from his opened side. The

Church also originated from the opening of the side of Christ upon the cross. We are only a people through the broken body of Christ.

- The **formation of Eve from the opened side of Adam**, and of Adam's flesh, is a type of the regeneration of believers in Christ, to life eternal, her life was a picture of our life "**in Christ.**" She was "bone of his bone, and flesh of his flesh", so we shall be like Christ at the resurrection. (1 Cor 15:45-49)
- The **love which Adam expressed towards Eve**, and his union with her by marriage, were lively images of Christ's love to believers, and of his eternal union with them in one society after their resurrection.
- The **procreation of Adam's children** is a type of the evangelism of the Church. Through the intimate love of Christ and His church (sexual intimacy of Adam and Eve), offspring are produced. Indeed all the living are alive by this one fact only, that they have become a member of the church through the union with Christ by faith in His death and atonement.

C. The Bride of Christ – The church is over and over called the bride of Christ in the scriptures. She is forever joined to Christ, and the two shall become one, forever and ever, world without end. This is indeed a "profound mystery."

(Rev 19:7, 2 Cor 11:2-3, Isaiah 54:5, Jer 2:2, 3:14, Eze 16:8-32, Hos 2:19-20, Matt 25:1-10)

Revelation 19:7-8 - 7 "Let us rejoice and be glad and give the glory to Him, **for the marriage of the Lamb has come and His bride has made herself ready.**" 8 And it was given to her to clothe herself in fine linen, bright and clean; for the fine linen is the righteous acts of the saints NASB

D. The Church a type of marriage – Conversely, shall we look at marriage symbolized by Christ and His church. A truly Christian marriage has an excellence, holiness, and unity in it, that cannot be easily described; and it should be full of the joy and purity of the Lord and His people. Husbands should view their wives through the eyes of Christ, loving and nurturing and cherishing and protecting them. He should serve her in love, gently giving his leadership and always seeking her purity in everything. Wives should view their husbands through the eyes of the church, respecting and serving him in love. Our marriage should to large degree, typify this marvelous relation.

**Ephesians 5:33** - 33 Nevertheless let each individual among you also love his own wife even as himself; and let the wife see to it that she respect her husband. NASB

A. This scripture sums up the passage before. It identifies the basic roles of both husband and wife. The husband is to give himself in sacrificial love to his wife, to level that he cares "**for himself**" and that "**Christ does His church.**" And she is to respect her husband, "**as to the Lord**" and "**in everything.**" The unity of marriage is a beautiful and profound mystery, which in its original design, should bring great fulfillment and blessings to its participants.

B. let the wife see to it - Here is inferred the responsibility the wife bears in obedience to God. She must "**see to it**" that she respect her husband!

C. that she respect her husband – Respect here dealing with the inward condition of the heart, not merely the outward expression of it. The wife should genuinely respect her husband in her heart in like manner as the church does with Christ. She should not hold an inner resentment and disdain for him, for she will surely bear the fruit of this in her actions. A wife who holds bitter resentment toward her husband dishonors God and has forgotten that good grace which was extended to her in Christ!

How is it that the wife should respect the husband and to what **DEGREE**? This is answered in verse 22 and verse 24; she should do it.....

- **As to the Lord** - The wife is to submit to the husband as she would to God himself, or as is proper in the Lord.
- **In everything** – Here the extent of submission, in all matters in life and marriage. In every single thing, not that she does not retain the right to appeal, but her ultimate resolve is submission to the husband's will.

**1 Peter 3:4-6** - 4 but let it be the hidden person of the heart, with the imperishable **quality of a gentle and quiet spirit, which is precious in the sight of God**. 5 For in this way in former times the holy women also, who hoped in God, used to adorn themselves, **being submissive to their own husbands**. 6 Thus Sarah obeyed Abraham, calling him lord, and you have become her children if you do what is right without being frightened by any fear.  
NASB

### **John Piper (from the book-What's the difference):**

*This is the way God intended it before there was any sin in the world: sinless man, full of love, in his tender, strong leadership in relation to woman; and sinless woman, full of love, in her joyful, responsive support for man's leadership. Two intelligent, humble, God-entranced beings living out, in beautiful harmony, their unique and different responsibilities. Sin distorted this purpose at every level.*

**Biblical headship** for the husband is the divine calling to take primary responsibility for Christlike, servant leadership, protection and provision in the home.

**Biblical submission** for the wife is the divine calling to honor and affirm her husband's leadership and help carry it through according to her gifts.

## Divorce and Remarriage

### On divorce:

God hates divorce!

In a culture where divorce is a very common thing, let us be quick to proclaim the mind and heart of God concerning it. The fruit of divorce is very evident in American culture. In fact our culture suffers at every level because of it. Parentless children abound, love is replaced by neglect, and the core unit of human society is literally torn in two. The marriage vow is annulled, and God is dishonored. Holy matrimony is not “**holy**” at all, as mankind piles up his sins before a holy God, who has warned of its deadly consequences.

**Matthew Henry comments;** *If we consider what mischiefs to families and states, what confusions and disorders, would follow upon arbitrary divorces, we shall see how much this law of Christ is for our own benefit, and what a friend Christianity is to our secular interests.*

May God have mercy on our society, and may the hearts of the fathers be turned again to the children!

**Malachi 2:14-16** - 14 You ask, "Why?" It is because the LORD is acting as the witness between you and the wife of your youth, **because you have broken faith with her**, though she is your partner, the wife of your marriage covenant. 15 Has not [the LORD] made them one? In flesh and spirit they are his. And why one? Because he was seeking godly offspring. So guard yourself in your spirit, and do not break faith with the wife of your youth. 16 "I hate divorce," says the LORD God of Israel, "and I hate a man's covering himself with violence as well as with his garment," says the LORD Almighty. So guard yourself in your spirit, and do not break faith. NIV

The NASB does a poor job translating this verse. It is very obscure, so we will look at the NIV which is far more accurate in this case.

A. Here the prophet rebukes Israel for “breaking the covenant” of marriage. Looking to God’s original intent in marriage, he asks the question, **“Has not [the LORD] made them one? In flesh and spirit they are his.”** God has designed marriage to be an unbreakable union between two parties, a union where the two become one in soul and body. The God of love speaks and declares His heart to us, that marriage is to be a union of lovingkindness and serving one another in faithfulness. Divorce here is called *“breaking faith.”*

B. **“I hate divorce,” says the LORD God of Israel,** - It cannot be expressed more clearly than this. Divorce is a sinful act, one that perpetuates sin again and again for years to come. There are inevitable consequences that follow such a decision. In short, there are no winners in divorce, but every one involved is a loser. Usually the children take the brunt of the consequences.

**Matthew 19:3-10** - 3 And some Pharisees came to Him, testing Him, and saying, "Is it lawful for a man to divorce his wife for any cause at all?" 4 And He answered and said, "Have you not read, that He who created them from the beginning made them male and female, 5 and said, ' **For this cause a man shall leave his father and mother, and shall cleave to his wife; and the two shall become one flesh?** 6 "Consequently they are no longer two, but one flesh. What therefore God has joined together, let no man separate." 7 They said to Him, "Why then did Moses command to give her a certificate of divorce and send her away?" 8 He said to them, "Because of your hardness of heart, Moses permitted you to divorce your wives; but from the beginning it has not been this way. 9 "And I say to you,

whoever divorces his wife, except for immorality, and marries another woman commits adultery." NASB

- A. Here God Himself comments on divorce. The will of God is very clear on this matter. Verse 6 declares, *"what God has joined together, let no man separate."* This does not mean that divorce is a sin in every circumstance, but the only exception given is as stated in verse 9, *"except for marital unfaithfulness."* The only other exception given in the scripture is the case of the unbelieving spouse who leaves the marriage voluntarily, after every attempt has been made by the believing spouse to maintain the marriage.
- 1 Corinthians 7:15 - 15 Yet if the unbelieving one leaves, **let him leave; the brother or the sister is not under bondage in such cases**, but God has called us to peace. NASB
- In the context of the above passage, divorce is being discussed v-10-14. In verse 15, the believer is *"not bound"*, that is bound to the marriage covenant in this circumstance.
- B. Jesus, like the prophet Malachi, points to God's original intent in marriage, **oneness**. God intends for the two to become one in soul and body. He desires an unbreakable union of love and kindness, commitment and faithfulness. He comments that divorce was permitted because their hearts were hard, but shows that divorce and remarriage is as the sin of adultery, giving only one exception. Paul also comments on the Lord's teaching;
- 1 Corinthians 7:8-11 - 8 But I say to the unmarried and to widows that it is good for them if they remain even as I. 9 But if they do not have self-control, let them marry; for it is better to marry than to burn. 10 But to the married I give instructions, not I, but the Lord, that **the wife should not leave her husband 11 (but if she does leave, let her remain unmarried, or else be reconciled to her husband), and that the husband should not send his wife away.** NASB
- C. Search your bible, and you will find the scripture to be very consistent in its position on this matter.
- D. If you have committed the sin of divorce, consider that, like any other sin, God's grace and mercy to forgive and restore, far exceed the severity of our sins. This sin really is like many others, that all of us have committed. We are guilty of many, many sins before a holy God. But Christ died for all of our sins, His atonement was a perfect work, and we are restored to perfect fellowship with God. It would not be good to harbor guilt or shame for this matter. Just as the woman caught in adultery, Jesus says, *"woman, where are your accusers? Neither do I condemn you, go and sin no more."* The heart of Jesus is one of forgiveness and compassion, restoration and kindness!
- E. The sin of divorce should not be **compounded by a remarriage** which is unlawful (as defined below), this could be a severe transgression bringing difficult and untold consequences.
- F. **God** does not want any loose ends dangling about a Christians marriage, **He wants problems in marriage resolved!**

## On remarriage:

The above teaching of Jesus and Paul actually clarify the understanding of remarriage as well. There are two exceptions given in which remarriage is not considered sinful.

These are;

- **marital unfaithfulness,(that is adultery, sexual immorality)**
- **the unbelieving spouse who leaves**

In these circumstances, the believer is not bound. Jesus actually declares, v-9 ***“I tell you that anyone who divorces his wife, except for marital unfaithfulness, and marries another woman commits adultery.”*** This is also stated in Mark and in Luke, but there the exception is NOT given. These matters are very serious and should be looked upon with sober judgment.

If you have been remarried, and you did NOT have biblical grounds for the divorce, OR your spouse did NOT have biblical grounds for their divorce, a few things should be considered;

1. You have committed ***adultery against God*** and your former spouse, and cause your new spouse to be an adulterer as well. This is a serious matter with God. One should consider how you have been so deluded in your life as to commit such a transgression? Were you aware of this sin before you committed it? If not, why not? Would you consider such a weighty matter as remarriage without consulting God and His Word? Is your life governed by God and His Word or by your own sinful will and emotions? Frankly, one who commits actions like this should seriously consider the **REALITY** of their own salvation as this behavior manifests a serious spiritual dysfunction in ones life. I am not saying that you are not regenerate, but that you should seriously ask yourself this question and probe God’s Word to be sure that you are.
2. If you have genuinely recognized the above and do wholeheartedly agree with God about the matter of your sin, then ***God’s grace is sufficient*** to cover your sin! If you are in Christ, God has forgiven your sin and made you spotless, yes holy and blameless. You are His beloved, there is no guilt that remains, and perfect fellowship has been restored between you and your Father God.
3. ***Thanksgiving*** would be in order for God’s grace.
4. Although God has forgiven you, generally speaking, you will still bear the ***earthly consequences*** that follow this matter.

If you are seeking to be remarried, you should consider the following;

**1 Corinthians 7:17, 20, 27-28, 39** - 17 Only, as the Lord has assigned to each one, as God has called each, in this manner let him walk. And thus I direct in all the churches. 20 Let each man remain in that condition in which he was called. - 27 Are you bound to a wife? Do not seek to be released. Are you released from a wife? Do not seek a wife. 28 But if you should marry, you have not sinned; and if a virgin should marry, she has not sinned. Yet such will have trouble in this life, and I am trying to spare you. 39 A wife is bound as long as her husband lives; but if her husband is dead, she is free to be married to whom she wishes, **only in the Lord.** NASB



1. If you are divorced, you should have biblical grounds for your divorce, or be reconciled to your spouse.
2. It should go without saying that you should *not even consider marrying an unbeliever*. V-39 expresses that marriage should only be “in the Lord.” The bible is replete with caution against such a matter. Light and darkness fellowship not.

A helpful checklist from “Marriage, Divorce and Remarriage” (by Jay Adams) – Principles

A. Marriage

1. is a divinely ordained institution
2. is the first and most fundamental institution
3. is covenantal and binding
4. is a covenant of companionship
5. is the place for true intimacy
6. is to conform to the model of Christ and His church

B. Divorce\*

1. always stems from sin
2. is not necessarily sinful
3. always breaks a marriage
4. is never necessary among believers
5. is legitimate on the grounds of sexual sin
6. is legitimate when an unbeliever wishes to divorce a believer
7. is forgivable when sinful

\* Christians seeking *divorce* need to consult their pastors and make sure they are behaving in a manner consistent with the scripture

C. Remarriage\*\*

1. in general, is desirable
2. is possible for a divorced person
3. is possible for a sinfully divorced person through forgiveness
4. is possible only when all biblical obligations have been met
5. is possible only when parties are prepared for marriage

\*\* Christians seeking *remarriage* need to consult their pastors and make sure they are behaving in a manner consistent with the scripture

Questions

1. Are all, one, or none of the parties Christians
2. Who wants the divorce?
3. On what grounds?
4. Does this party really want a divorce, or only a change in the situation?
5. Has 1 Corinthians 6 been violated?
6. Has sexual sin been present?
7. Is there acceptable evidence for such sin or only hearsay and/or supposition?
8. Has church discipline been applied? (Matt 18)
9. If so, what was the outcome?
10. Is there repentance/forgiveness?
11. Is reconciliation required?
12. Does an unbeliever want the marriage to continue?
13. Has a former spouse remarried another?
14. Did any church fail to handle a divorce/remarriage properly?
15. If so, how? And what must be done to set this straight?
16. Is the believer in a state where the church may declare him/her free from all obligations and, therefore, free to remarry?
17. If not, what more needs to be done to bring about this condition?

Questions? shaansloan@att.net

